

THE CIA:

The Spook Shaker

James R. Schlesinger took over from Richard Helms as director of the Central Intelligence Agency only last month, but he has already stirred up the kind of Washington buzz that goes with any shake-up at the spook house. In his first weeks on the job, the deceptively tweedy new master spy relieved three of the agency's top deputies—and sent waves of anxiety rippling down through the ranks. "They have always moved bodies around here," said one CIA insider. "But never have so many been moved so fast—or with so much clatter."

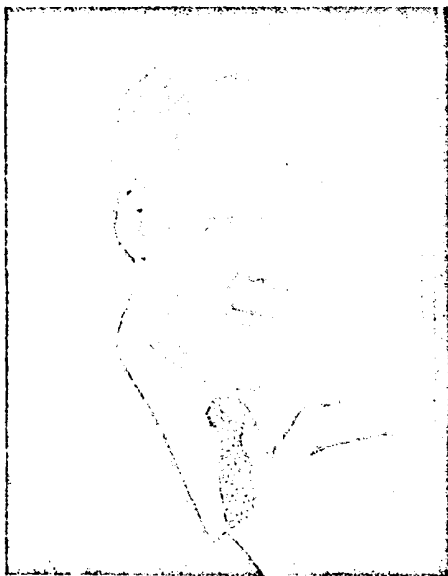
Sudden as the changes seem, from President Nixon's point of view they are long overdue. Well over a year ago, Mr. Nixon charged Helms with streamlining and coordinating the nation's sprawling, \$6 billion-a-year intelligence network (which, along with the CIA, includes the National Security Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency). But the President's directives weren't fully implemented. Helms, a Democratic hold-

over, got little White House backing. And he had no better luck on his own: more than 80 per cent of intelligence money and manpower was under the direction of Defense Secretary Melvin Laird—with whom Helms often clashed on major intelligence estimates and the administration of the agencies.

Schlesinger has no experience in the spying trade. But he won high marks as an administrator during a seventeen-month stint as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission; justifiably or not, he is regarded as tougher, more hard-headed and more conservative than the urbane Helms. Significantly, he enjoys the unreserved backing of White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman. And it was Schlesinger, as head of a study by the Office of Management and Budget, who drew up the original plan for the restructuring of the nation's intelligence apparatus—the plan that Helms failed to execute swiftly enough to suit Mr. Nixon.

Shake-up: His arrival was followed by the departure of three solid CIA veterans: Bronson Tweedy, Helms's longtime deputy; Thomas Parrott, Tweedy's No. 2; and Thomas Karamessines, the agency's deputy director of plans (the so-called "dirty tricks department"). And more resignations are expected. Warns one Capitol Hill specialist on the CIA: "If he pushes this shake-up all through the intelligence community, he could be regarded as a big, bad wolf." So far, however, Schlesinger's housecleaning does not seem to be shaping up as a blanket elimination of CIA old boys. Karamessines, for one, had twice asked permission to retire, only to be persuaded to stay on. And for his replacement, Schlesinger tapped one of the original old boys: 53-year-old William E. Colby, a 23-year CIA veteran who had served with the OSS during World War II.

Schlesinger is remaining properly secretive about his plans for the agency. But in recent stories leaked to several newspapers, "authoritative sources" who sounded suspiciously like Schlesinger himself offered some strong clues. By these accounts Schlesinger hopes to enlarge the CIA's role in combating international crime, narcotics traffic and terrorism. He also hopes to polish up the agency's tarnished image at home. And, with the Vietnam war wound down and the Soviet Union enlarging its influence in the Persian Gulf, the new master spy is reportedly eager to re-focus CIA effort in the Middle East.



Schlesinger: Retiring the old boys